

**Town of Wethersfield**  
**Economic Development & Improvement Commission**  
**Regular Meeting – Thursday February 14, 2008 – 12:00 Noon**  
Basement/Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall

**MINUTES**

1. Call To Order – Chair Rosania called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Betty Rosania, Bill Knapp, Doug Sacks, Joan Hughes, Kate Mullen, Tony Homicki, Chris Lyons, Ken Rizzio, Howard Greenblatt, Chris Monroe and John Adamian.

Members absent: Brian Silver and Joe Cornelio.

Also in attendance: Andy Adil – Mayor, Paul Montinieri – Deputy Mayor, Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager, Phil Knecht – Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison, Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner.

3. Old Business
  - a. Status Report - Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project - Peter Gillespie reported that the DOT permit has been issued and the contractor is working with the Town Engineer to determine a start date.
  - b. Status Report - Preserve America Master Plan – Bonnie Therrien noted that the process had been slowed due to the loss of a key staff person in the consulting firm. Ms. Therrien reported that a draft is being prepared which will incorporate additional comments.
  - c. Status Report - Horse and Carriage Rides – Peter Gillespie reported that in an effort to conserve funds, it is necessary to selectively choose run dates. He noted that he has been in touch with the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum and the Historical Society to coordinate runs during special events. Mr. Gillespie reported that there would be carriage rides Valentine's Weekend on Saturday & Sunday from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
4. New Business
  - a. Objectives and Strategies 2008 – Peter Gillespie reported that he is still waiting for the Preserve America recommendations so they can be integrated into the long-term objectives and strategies. He noted that hopefully the draft would be available within the upcoming weeks.
  - b. Budget 2008/2009 – Bonnie Therrien reported that the public meetings would take place in late March or early April.

- c. Keiler Status – Peter Gillespie reported that the funding expended should last through the end of February. Joan Hughes noted that they provided a report for the shopkeepers and that the articles have brought in customers. Doug Sacks noted that it takes time to build a relationship and that Keiler should be assigned specific tasks to give them a better focus. Bill Knapp noted the quality of the two Boston Globe articles. Chair Rosania noted that she would like to see a story outlining streetscape improvements and the current proposal for the Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project. Bill Knapp made a motion to extend the contract two months. Kate Mullen seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- d. Breakfast Meeting – Peter Gillespie reported that the preliminary meeting with the Chamber of Commerce had been cancelled and therefore the agenda has yet to be solidified. He noted that the Chamber was interested in having a forum geared to promote new business starts and held a J. Michaels Tavern. A brief discussion ensued regarding the proposed agenda, venue and whether there should be a fee. There was a consensus that the Wethersfield Country Club would be a more suitable venue AND that there be no charge to attendees. Paul Montinieri discussed gearing the agenda towards energy efficiency programs. The Commission expressed consensus in supporting Mr. Montinieri's suggested topic. Chair Rosania asked Chris Lyons to contact the Country Club about availability of space.
- e. Business Visitation Program – Bonnie Therrien reported that Andy Adil and Paul Montinieri had visited two of the top ten taxpayers. Peter Gillespie distributed a list of new business starts and noted the importance of bringing this program back on line.
- f. Shop Local – Peter Gillespie noted that he would speak with the Chamber of Commerce to see if they are interesting in partnering in this project and that this had been discussed at the Marketing & Communications Sub-Committee meeting.

## 5. Reports of the Town Manager -

Town Manager's Report Bonnie Therrien reported on the following:

- The status of the Town Hall/Library renovation
- Continuing revaluation inspections
- 1260 Silas Deane Highway (Hartford Hospital)
- 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- The necessity of having EDIC support for the Redevelopment Agency

Town Council Liaison's Report – Paul Montinieri noted the need for more collaboration between the EDIC and the Redevelopment Agency in order to reach consensus in any future referendum question. He noted that while the EDIC may have supported the PAC, there was a lack of support and participation. He encouraged being more forthright and aggressive.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Phil Knecht provided highlights of the January 15, 2008 meeting.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Joan Hughes reported on the highlights of the January 22, 2008 meeting.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison's Report – Ken Rizzio reported on the highlights of the February 6, 2008 meeting.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report - Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the January 31, 2008 report.

6. Chairman's Report – Chair Rosania noted that she had nothing additional to report.
7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – No report was given.  
Financial Strategies – No report was given.
8. Minutes- Approval of January 10, 2008 meeting minutes – Joan Hughes made a motion to approve the January 10, 2008 meeting minutes. Howard Greenblatt seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
9. Next Meeting – March 13, 2008
10. Correspondence
  - a. January 31, 2008 Monthly Report
11. Adjournment – Chair Rosania adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner